


# Record Warmth Lately – But a Hard Freeze is Still Possible

Michael Mathews  
NWS Bismarck, ND

# Concern

- \* The record warm winter and record high temperatures of late could set the state, agriculture, and the backyard gardener up for a shock if conditions return to what is normal for North Dakota.

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- \* The following tables show the top 10 warmest winters (Dec – Feb) based on average temperature for Williston, Jamestown, Dickinson, Minot and Bismarck, as it relates to the last freeze (low temperature at or below 32°F) date.

**Williston**  
**(1894 - Present)**

Year	Average Winter Temperature	Rank	Last Freeze	
1931	26.5	1st	21-May	<b>Average Last Freeze Date</b>
1992	24.7	2nd	26-May	
1987	23.9	3rd	27-Apr	
2012	22.1	4th	- - -	
			<b>17-May</b>	<b>Top Ten Warmest Winter Average Freeze Date</b>
1926	21.6	5th	13-May	
1998	21.5	6th	4-Jun	
1944	21.2	7th	7-May	
2006	20.9	8th	12-May	
1958	20.8	9th	1-May	
1981	20.4	10th	9-May	
			<b>13-May</b>	

**Jamestown**  
**(1893 - Present)**

Year	Average Winter Temperature	Rank	Last Freeze	
1987	24.4	1st	21-Apr	<b>Average Last Freeze Date</b>
1931	22.8	2nd	22-May	
1992	22.1	3rd	23-May	
1983	22.0	4th	25-May	
			<b>15-May</b>	<b>Top Ten Warmest Winter Average Freeze Date</b>
2012	21.7	5th	- - -	
1998	21.6	6th	16-Apr	
2002	20.0	7th	24-May	
1942	19.7	8th	14-May	
2006	19.6	9th	12-May	
1944	19.0	10th	8-May	
			<b>11-May</b>	

**Dickinson**  
**(1893 - Present)**

Year	Average Winter Temperature	Rank	Last Freeze	
1992	28.5	1st	6-Jun	<b>Average Last Freeze Date</b>
1983	27.6	2nd	14-May	
1987	26.9	3rd	27-Apr	
1998	26.0	4th	3-Jun	
			<b>21-May</b>	<b>Top Ten Warmest Winter Average Freeze Date</b>
1931	25.0	5th	22-May	
2000	24.9	6th	2-Jun	
1981	24.7	7th	9-May	
2012	23.6	8th	- - -	
1953	23.1	9th	15-May	
2002	23.0	10th	24-May	
			<b>20-May</b>	

**Minot**  
**(1905 - Present)**

Year	Average Winter Temperature	Rank	Last Freeze	
1931	25.7	1st	22-May	<b>Average Last Freeze Date</b>
1992	23.9	2nd	25-May	
1987	23.8	3rd	22-May	
2012	23.5	4th	- - -	
			<b>17-May</b>	<b>Top Ten Warmest Winter Average Freeze Date</b>
1998	22.9	5th	2-May	
2000	22.1	6th	23-Apr	
2006	21.7	7th	13-May	
1983	19.7	8th	16-May	
2002	19.3	9th	23-May	
1926	19.0	10th	2-Jun	
			<b>16-May</b>	

<u><b>Bismarck</b></u> <b>(1874 - Present)</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Winter Temperature</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Last Freeze</b>	
1931	25.9	1st	20-May	<b>Average Last Freeze Date</b>  <b>14-May</b>
1878	25.3	2nd	15-May	
1992	25.1	3rd	27-May	
1983	24.2	4th	5-Jun	<b>Top Ten Warmest Winter Average Freeze Date</b>  <b>22-May</b>
1987	24.1	5th	22-May	
1998	23.9	6th	4-Jun	
2012	23.3	7th	- - -	
2006	22.1	8th	13-May	
2002	22.0	9th	24-May	
2000	21.1	10th	13-May	

- \* Bismarck is the only station with the average freeze date occurring later than normal.

# In conclusion...

- \* Data shows that even after record warm winters the last freeze can occur late in the spring.
- \* If considering an early plant date be mindful that temperatures typically dip below freezing in North Dakota in May, and sometimes even in early June. Be ready – just in case.